Import of Coal

3407. SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India is an importer of Coal;

(b) if so, what is the total quantity of coal imported its price in U.S. dollars as well as in Rupee as per its present value;

(c) what are the names of the countries from which the coal was imported and the quantity thereof;

(d) the reasons for import of coal: and

(e) whether Government is contemplating to stop import of coal by encouraging use of Indian coal

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) to (d) The integrated Steel Plants, both of Public Sector and of Private Sector, import some quantity of metallurgical coking coal both on qualitative and quantitative considerations. The details of imports by Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL), Visakhapatnam Steel Plant (VSP) of Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL) and Tata Iron and Steel Company Limited (TISCO) for the year 1991-92 is as under:-

Organisation	Country of Import		Quantity (Million Tonnes
SAIL	Australia		4·200
	New Zealand		0·055
		TOTAL :	4·255
VSP	Australia		0·953
	New Zealand		0·036
		TOTAL: .	0·989
TISCO	Australia		0·84€

The present C&F price of the imported coal varies from US $ 64 and US $ 67 (approximately equivalent to Rs. 1900—2000) per metric tonne.

(e) The available indigenous coking coal is being used fully. Only the qualitative and quantitative gaps in the demand and supply are met through imports.

Scrap from Mini and Integrated Steel Plants

3408. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) what is the estimated demand for scrap from Mini and Integrated Steel Plants during the current year and projections for the next five to ten years—indigenous availability and import requirement for the same period;

(b) what steps are proposed to be taken to reduce the import of scrap and save foreign exchange—including steps proposed to increase substantially the production of sponge iron; and

(c) whether Government are planning to provide gas for production of sponge iron and the details of gas based projects with locations and capacities approved so far/proposed?